

KARE-TV-35W BRIDGE COLLAPSE -10:41 P.M -12:01 A.M (8-2-2007)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw> (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw>)

Uploaded by [DANNOTCH'S NEWSVIDEOS](#)

(https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC7X0LKts7k4FT498ld_x5sg) on Wed Jan 20 2021.

From Wednesday, August 1st, 2007 KARE-TV (NBC) Live coverage of the I-35W Bridge collapse over the Mississippi river in Minneapolis, MN

- The Collapse occurred at 6:05 P.M, injuring 145 people and killing 13.
- Coverage runs from 10:41 P.M - 12:01 A.M

[00:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw)

these booms you were falling at the same time like i don't know we're guessing 40 feet we don't know it could have been more but um and then all of a sudden we were stopped and our car was at this awful angle you know just smashed in and we were on top of a smaller car just a lot of heartbreaking accounts there are a lot of people who were just stunned amazed by what they had personally experienced or else witnessed that woman the last woman we heard from she is from houston she spoke then of the three good samaritans who approached her car and helped her out as well as her husband and daughter the three of them did make it out safely but that is partly due to the work of the good samaritans who are risking their own lives frankly julian mike to help these three people out we're going to be hearing so many stories like this i believe as we these days unfold as we hear more about this incident people who really came out helped each other out and of course this was a horrible horrible situation but it does in some cases bring out the best of people as we're seeing here tonight and of course the red cross putting out a call if you want to help and you're home watching this coverage and you want to know what you can do donate blood make a financial donation we should mention at this time all those websites that people have been referencing during our coverage tonight you can go to kare11.com we will have links to the red cross to the minneapolis city website to figure out traffic for tomorrow so it's going to be a place where you can find all of that information if you head to our home page hearing a lot of information developing right now we have heard about the dozens of people injured in the latest word now seven people uh at minimum confirmed dead so we're going to go out to hcmc where tricia volpe has been keeping an eye on developments there tricia good evening once again good evening mike and julie not a whole lot has changed here at hcmc over the last couple of hours it's certainly much quieter than it was here earlier tonight this is one of the main hospitals that responded to this tragedy many of the patients many of the people involved in this catastrophe were brought to this hospital tonight nearly 30 patients total

[00:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=120s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=120s)

patients total six of those patients were critically injured and one of the seven confirmed fatalities that person was confirmed dead or was pronounced dead here at hcmc earlier tonight of the six people who are critically injured we know that four of them have undergone surgery either for head injuries or abdominal injuries and we know that of all of the patients brought here tonight at least one of them was a child it's definitely a very somber scene here tonight it's been very busy and at the same time of course very emotional we've seen many people walking up to the hospital tonight presumably family members friends either looking for their

loved ones or they've been told by authorities that their loved ones are here and we want to show you some of the pictures we shot earlier tonight this is what it looked like ambulances were bringing patients in then going right back out again as we said the last patient update we have from hcmc nearly 29 excuse me nearly 30 people brought here total 22 with non-critical injuries six with critical injuries including head or chest trauma and one person at least pronounced dead here we believe that person died of drowning that's what the medical officials here at hcmc tell us tonight and this is the main trauma center for the twin cities the folks here train for this type of disaster situation on a regular basis it was a plan that was put into place into action here tonight we have a very well developed uh disaster response team which we have drills on periodically through the year but basically we set up a triage center and then we sort we have a physician and nurse team at that center we call in we call in personnel from the hospital of all types people to transport patients nurses doctors uh administrative people to help with the logistics security to help with with uh security type issues and locking down the perimeter and then we sort patients into those who are critically ill those who

[00:04:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=241s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=241s)

are critically ill those who are not critically ill but ill and have injuries requiring intervention urgently and those who are what we call the walking wounded those with minor injuries well they told us they were going to bring up the ambulance bring it over here so they were on a school bus yeah going home it was coming through minneapolis yeah now you heard first from dr joseph clinton from hcmc he talked about the medical procedures involved in this how they treat patients here at hcmc in a disaster situation as we saw here tonight then the raw emotion you heard from a gentleman who was here he was searching for his niece and nephew that school bus we saw earlier uh tonight his niece and nephew were on that school bus they were headed home and he was here at hcmc looking for them he wanted to make sure they were okay and we're going to be seeing certainly a lot of that here tonight as family members and friends continue to look for their loved ones as for medical updates we're told that things are much quieter here tonight medically and mike and julie were not expecting any more updates from hcmc all right trisha thanks very much hcmc clearly among the nation's best for trauma treatment some former military people there as well and just a quick note uh the patient information hotline number four hcmc 612-873-3131 and as you mentioned all that information of course on the web at kare11.com well the governor earlier in the night called this a catastrophe of historic proportions for minnesota and we are quite sure that as the stories circulate tomorrow seconds and minutes will literally be the difference between life and death for many people one such person was janet stately who was coming home from duluth she was about to cross over the bridge when she decided to take the last exit off the interstate before the bridge here's what she had to say tonight tell me what was happening this afternoon you were on the freeway i was my daughter and i were coming back from duluth we spent the day up there and i was trying to get into town before the traffic got too bad but

[00:06:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=360s)

the traffic got too bad but that didn't work out um the vikings game was probably adding to it and the road construction so we decided well i decided actually to turn off there because it was slow going even to get up to that exit for university but i decided to take that which way were you going i was coming into minneapolis from duluth gotcha and there was a gas station there on the corner of 10th and i needed to use that so i was going to go there but i couldn't turn left or yeah it would have been left to get into the gas station either because other people had the same idea so i went across the 10th street bridge and i heard i i don't really know the order of things but i know what what i heard and what i saw something pancaked it pancaked down something just was a big a big crash and i'm assuming from the news reports i'm seeing that it was um if that were falling on the railroad cars that might have been why it was an odd sounding crash and then i looked and i i started to scream because the bridge was going down into a v on the section it was eye level with me and the cars were just going like they were tiny little hot wheels or something they were just they were just falling and then there was this horrible like smoke or i don't believe it was really smoke but that's what i thought at first and it was concrete dust and then there was just noises i don't even know how to describe and i was screaming and my daughter and i were both trying to use our cell phones to get 9-1-1 and get help

and then i stopped two young men who looked fit and told them what happened and tell them get down there see what you can do and i don't think they believed me and the traffic was moving so i had to keep going and then there was a bicycling team that

[00:08:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=480s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=480s)

and then there was a bicycling team that i saw and they did believe it because by then we're both sobbing and screaming and they turned their bikes around and went back you know towards the bridge collapse i remember seeing the orange bus and i i knew there were kids on that bus and you know we were just praying about about them and their safety and everybody's why do you think it was that you you mean you were on that you were you were desperate to go on that bridge i needed to use the bathroom and i have never been so glad to be this age and never been so glad that i drank all that coffee in duluth because i didn't stop all the way back oh my but i really could not get into that gas station because the traffic was just too much so my option was to just tough it out and go on the slower bridge to make it home did you um uh and so uh when you what was the first site you saw that you realized that there was a that there was trouble when the bridge went into that v and all the cars started just tumbling and sliding i i was screaming and i remember hearing horns honking i don't know if they were behind me or if they were from i can't believe that i would have heard them from the other bridge but i heard horns honking and that's that crash sound first the sight of the cars going down in that v shape and going into the water and then horn talking that's just my clearest memories it's statly one of many witnesses who saw this happen tonight at about 605 being interviewed by our executive producer lonnie hartley we've talked a lot tonight about the detours and the issues for transportation that are going to be in effect apparently immediately and for the next foreseeable future for the next several days and joining us now on the phone bob gibbons with metro transit uh mr gibbons good evening good evening we understand that you have already started to put some additional buses into service yes we'll offer additional transit

[00:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=601s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=601s)

yes we'll offer additional transit service from six of our north metro park and ride lots tomorrow morning to help deal with the growth and congestion that we can expect this plan will evolve and probably enlarge in the days ahead but we could press into service immediately tomorrow morning 25 additional buses from these six locations and we understand light rail is still functioning yes light rail will operate fine and was not impacted by this evening's uh tragedy how are your resources now that they will be thoroughly pressed into service over the next several weeks at minimum yes we'll be able to try and use as many additional buses and bring them out of maintenance as we can to make sure that we assist in the mobility for the community we'll also be putting staff on hand at these six locations up north tomorrow some of the people might not be familiar with how to use transit service and will will have a human presence there to give some additional guidance anything that you would like to tell people tonight if it will be their first time trying the transit system sure i think arrive early go to our website we've got information on on the park and ride lots where we'll have the added service i really think it's important for all of us to consider sharing rides tomorrow whether it be carpools or transit we're going to be facing for the long term of transportation challenge in the region obviously the buses are certainly one important component here but drivers are another are you comfortable with your manpower yes yeah we have 1500 professional experienced drivers and our experiences whenever there's a need in our community like this they respond so that i don't believe we'll have any problem attracting the drivers to operate the added service okay bob gibbons with metro transit thank you for the time mr gibbons it's a good time to remind people that you can go to our website carelevit.com and find all of those websites because tomorrow morning is definitely going to be a morning that you want to get up early leave early and have a lot of patience and understanding obviously this is a major

[00:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=720s)

understanding obviously this is a major major component in our transportation system in the twin cities it certainly is and if you're just joining us now and tuned in in the last several moments you may not have heard the most recent updates coming from the government center governor pawlenty mayor ryback not speaking at the second one but we have gotten the update that the search has now become a recovery effort it is concluded for the evening it will pick up again in the morning apparently too much debris even with additional lighting too much debris in the water to continue things going on there they have now confirmed seven fatalities and the forecast sadly is grim beyond that but that's where they're standing tight at seven in the minneapolis mayor rt ryback said earlier in the evening this is a direct quote we have concern this will be very tragic a very tragic night when this is over and here's what to expect tomorrow morning there is a delegation flying in some of whom as we speak from florida and from washington d.c the chairman of the ntsb which is the national transportation safety board is on his way to minnesota and he will be overseeing this tomorrow also the secretary of transportation mary peters she will be flying in with both our state senators senator coleman and senator klobuchar tomorrow and we have been assured that we will get not only state county city help but federal help in figuring out how this happened and federal funds and helping us recover as elwin tinklenberg had said earlier it's going to be at least two years before that bridge can be reconstructed a ton of questions left to be answered at the least of which is how could something like this happen when from all accounts including those from the construction workers handling the resurfacing how could something like this happen when all the work appeared to be minimal and all surface so the ntsb uh all those in that delegation that julie had mentioned we're going to be looking to answer some of these questions and it likely will take quite a bit of time

[00:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=840s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=840s)

a bit of time joe fryer has been on this scene since about 6 30 tonight and he joins us once again live joe yeah julie and mike just a few moments ago once again we spoke with the construction company that was overseeing this project pci construction the prime contractor for what was going on it was a resurfacing project they don't think the work that they were doing could have had anything to do with the bridge collapsing but of course investigation will be needed to figure out exactly what happened we spoke with tom sloan who's the vice president of bridges for the company and david lillahag who is the company's attorney just a few moments ago 18 workers 18 of their workers were on the bridge and one is unaccounted for tonight here's what they had to say just a few moments ago i was at my office and i got a call from project manager that the bridge was collapsing and it was i was incredulous i said what he said the bridge is going down it's going down he says what what part of it he said wall-to-wall and then he hollered orders to everybody as it appeared to me like it was collapsing as he was talking like how are you he said i'm gonna be i'm okay i said yeah i'll call you in a minute deal with it and i'll call right back and we've talked several times obviously since another worker did in fact ride the bridge down he was struck by a car went into the water looked up saw water over his head really even though he was stunned realized what had happened and kicked his way to the surface and he's very lucky to be here again that was david lillahag who's an attorney for pci and then tom sloan who's the vice president of bridges for the company which was the prime contractor for the resurfacing work that was being done here but again they believe that it was just resurfacing work and they don't think that could have had anything to do with the actual bridge collapsing they believe that the 18 workers who are on the bridge were just like everyone else who was in their cars surprised and victimized by what happened clearly though the investigation is going to take some time to figure out exactly what is that happened they say that a representative from mndot was always

[00:16:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=961s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=961s)

representative from mndot was always overseeing the project with them so mndot of course playing a key role in overseeing any sort of major bridge projects like this throughout the metro area mike and julie still very active behind you joe we understand that they have called off the search tonight in the river but it seems like there's still a lot of people coming and going any idea what's happening behind you right now are they just trying to keep people out mainly yeah this is one of the main entrances for police fire ambulances to get into the area but we are still a few blocks away from the actual site of the bridge but this is where a lot of cars are

going through a lot of people lingering around simply because the twins game let out not too long ago and of course we're not too far from the metro dome we saw a giant uh semi with target pull in about 10 15 minutes ago filled with water and granola bars to help with the people who are on the scene here who have maybe been here all day and will be here throughout the night and need to keep hydrated and and uh and uh make sure they're not too hungry uh even some of the little things you don't think about we saw crews coming in with portable satellite bathrooms just within the last half hour those are the types of things that they're thinking about preparing for knowing that a lot of people are going to be here for a long time evaluating what happened here we talked a lot about the detours joe and the use of 94 and 694 280 and all the information given to the folks at the twins game do you think that that seems to have been working it's hard to tell from where we're standing but certainly we've seen far far less traffic in this area but we did see quite a bit up until about eight o'clock this evening and that did make it fairly hard for for police and fire crews to to get into this area we saw giant semis pulling in for dive teams for collapse investigation teams and they were coming from all over the metro area we saw them from anoka county we saw them from edina we saw them from all over and they needed space to get in here and this is an area that is kind of i guess cornered into downtown minneapolis there aren't many ways to get out of here except for getting back onto washington and back onto 35

[00:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1080s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1080s)

onto washington and back onto 35 so it can get congested here pretty easily so that's why it's so important to try and keep people out i think that's why the cordoned off area just kept growing and growing and growing and growing throughout the evening but certainly tonight far fewer people seem to be lingering in this area and that certainly makes it a lot easier but again the effort here does seem to be winding down for the last couple hours or so we've we've seen far few people in the area and even all the extra help that came in from other municipalities the police came out at 8 45 and said thank you we appreciate the help but we don't need any more officers coming in here to try and help out at this time all right joe we sure appreciate your updates throughout the evening thank you all right we have talked before about the holiday inn metro dome ballroom being a staging area of sorts where folks can go find out some information about their loved ones and concerns that they may have for people they think may be involved and janelle klein is there she joins us now on the phone with the details i guess you spoke to some of the family members i did mike this has become an increasingly busy place tonight as more and more family members are finding they are unable to reach their loved ones and are coming here for support and hopefully some answers they are bringing food in now and water preparations so that people can spend the night because they don't expect that they'll get any answers anytime soon they are having more and more family members here some several of them we spoke with say that they have tried reaching families have family members have been unable to do so a couple of them also said that they thought that they may have recognized a vehicle in the tv video they're seeing and and coming down here because of that we spoke with one woman who said that she has not been able to reach her brother this afternoon she knows that he uses the 35w bridge he lives nearby she believes he and his girlfriend may have been on the bridge at that point and she has tried calling his cell phone his workplace all sorts of places that she knows he spends time and has been unable to reach him she has just gotten here tonight and has spoken with some of the clergy the american red cross some of the people here

[00:20:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1200s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1200s)

cross some of the people here on hand to support family members she told us that she saw the report on tv tonight on kier 11 around 7 o'clock and has tried calling him since then with no luck she and her mother now are here probably for the night she said that they have tried to get a list from hcmc and they're working on that trying to get an updated condition reports and lists on some of the people involved in this incident and they are waiting for for more information and expect that they may be here through the night but i i would imagine that the red cross workers there are telling people that this is now called off for the night and won't resume again until the sun comes up in the morning because it's simply too dangerous for them and i and i would imagine it's a frustrating place to be to be either someone who's looking for a loved one or a red cross

worker is there much that they can say at this point exactly right julie there really isn't a lot that they can tell family members at this point because as you said it is it is a situation now where they are going to have to wait for better light we saw some trucks go by earlier with flood lights and other equipment that they were using earlier but at this point they've been called off and yet some family members have just said we'd like to stay here because it is a good support system that they have set up here with clergy members with mental health professionals with other people on hand to sort of support the people here who are waiting for answers so some of them will be spending the night here and others have decided that they'll go home for the night and maybe come back but again it's going to be a very difficult way for a lot of these people still hoping for answers and hoping for the best news janelle thanks very much again the information there at the bottom of your screen will of course be on our website at kare11.com for the foreseeable future including all the information you're going to hear here the reports the statistics the details that's the number to call we've had greg vandergriff out at the scene now for several hours as well had some really hair-raising accounts from witnesses and also some fairly heroic accounts from people who were there when the bridge collapsed and helped their fellow travelers to safety greg vandergriff joins us live once again greg you know julian and mike and

00:22:02 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1322s>)

greg you know julian and mike and talking to some of those people who were here with really just a couple hundred yards from the bridge uh where we're standing i am struck by the the disbelief that uh even uh one gentleman who saw it go down um was having a hard time coming to grips with what happened even though he saw it with his own eyes and an hour or so ago there weren't many people here but but now more people have congregated and they're really just standing here staring i mean you can you can see that that bridge behind me and it is uh it is unbelievable when you look at it um now there are as i mentioned earlier trains that are pinned underneath this one collapsed portion of the bridge we did see some people over there this evening inspecting and from our vantage point anyway it appears something is spilling out of one of those cars we don't know what it is but they haven't told us to evacuate so i i can only assume that they're not too worried about it at this point police have had to ask some of the curious to leave the area there have been some people who have tried to get closer but but again when you you look at that bridge and you see those those enormous uh supports uh bent and crop crumpled uh it is uh it is really um hard to believe and and as i mentioned earlier those those witnesses even even the one man who was standing on the stone arch bridge and saw it go down um he couldn't believe it and he was just praying that it wasn't 35w uh we also uh talked to some people who were inside an apartment building inside an elevator and they felt the uh the shake the the building shook as uh as the the bridge collapsed they ran outside and as you mentioned julie they started helping they got right in there and and started helping uh helping the wounded

00:24:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1440s>)

helping uh helping the wounded out of out of danger so unbelievable night beyond words greg i can't help but be somewhat concerned can't help but be somewhat concerned with what we're seeing spilling out of one of those tanks i mean you've been through these types of things in similar fashion before and i don't even see any emergency personnel within the camera's view from before should we be concerned with what's in there well i no one's told me anything i can tell you i saw some what appeared to be some kind of emergency personnel over there perhaps firemen they were looking at it no one came and ushered us out of the area so at this point based upon that i have to believe that at least here we are okay uh it is it is not clear what the substance is it appears to me from this vantage point and again it's dark and it's a couple hundred yards but it appears to be some kind of box car uh and uh in talking to my photographer who was looking through the lens he believed it to be some kind of powder but beyond that i don't know no acrid smell nothing peculiar about it nothing like that the wind is blowing that way so i cannot tell you i think you said it best though greg it is hard to believe when you see these pictures it's still hard to believe that this has actually happened one of the things that riveted a lot of people throughout the evening was the site of a school bus right on the precipice just seconds away from being one of those vehicles that went down when this bridge collapsed scott goldberg has more on what happened to all those kids inside that bus yeah julian when you talk about

how unbelievable it is that a bridge carrying an interstate across the river just collapsed like that at the end of rush hour and that so far apparently the number of deaths seems relatively small you can't help but think about that school bus so many of us saw those pictures first on tv screens when the live coverage began a total of 62 people were on that bus 52 of the people on the bus we

[00:26:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1561s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1561s)

52 of the people on the bus we understand were children nobody was killed on that school bus the latest information we have from weight house which runs a youth program this summer and was bringing the kids back from a trip to a water park in [___] rapids bringing them back to south minneapolis is that eight children still are in the hospital and two staffers the worst injuries the weight house believes were suffered by one of the staffers a woman who has been there for a few years they said that they weren't sure exactly how old she is in her 20s or 30s the director of their youth program but even those injuries are not life-threatening according to wait house tonight so certainly good news there although there were a total of 10 people there was a total 10 people from wait house injured in all of that it is the belief of the rest of the staff and the directors there that everyone will be okay and really unbelievable that everyone else was able to get off the bus all the children tonight have been reunited with their parents and again when we saw those first pictures and we saw that school bus on the brink on the edge of the river all of us feared the worst and it's pretty amazing tonight that it turned out the way it did yes we're glad that that particular story has a happy ending thank you scott as we've mentioned it's about questions right now questions and recovery that will continue uh in the morning for some of those victims but as far as the questions go how this bridge collapsed is what's up in the air ntsb going to be involved a lot of federal folks involved in all of this and earlier in the evening we spoke with minnesota's former transportation commissioner al tinklenberg who said that really something like this should serve as a wake-up call for all minnesotans here's what he had to say deterioration of the budget at mndot and and the resulting layoffs failure to replace people a larger and larger number of senior people who are retiring i think that's really had a toll on the

[00:28:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1681s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1681s)

i think that's really had a toll on the department and its ability to keep up and the consequences of this not only in terms of the the horrific loss of life but the economic consequences this is a main artery bringing people and goods into and through the cities and it's not going to be closed for a couple of weeks this is down now for and it's going to take a minimum of of two years to get this back up and in place and rebuilt and that may be one of the more poignant sound bites of the evening the the wake-up call that much of our infrastructure is deteriorating not only in the state but in this country we should note that this bridge was inspected in both 2005 and 2006 and was believed to have had a clean bill of health and also that the construction that was being done on the bridge according to the company that had been contracted out to do the work they said it was it was minor construction basically resurfacing and some joint work nothing that had to do with the steel structure of this bridge so they are as baffled as anyone else as to why this happened well as you mentioned i mean this is an aging infrastructure this bridge built in 1967 certainly going to be evaluated and inspected as every bridge in the state is going to be but you've got a 2000 foot span there a ton of concrete a ton of metal and steel and a lot of traffic and so that's what they're going to be dealing with tomorrow when it comes to starting to piece this whole situation together we have on the phone with us right now a gentleman who i understand um had a hand in rescuing uh some of the uh the folks tonight his name is jim o'neill mr o'neill uh thanks for spending a few moments with us you uh were there involved with the children on this bus well i i i was walking down towards the river because i was i was going to go to the game and um i had some time to stall i was walking down towards the river i heard this this noise and just dust and ran down there and um tried to help with getting some of the kids up to the to the red cross

[00:30:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1801s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1801s)

kids up to the to the red cross you know it was real chaotic with the the uh there was a truck there that had started on fire you know we were concerned about the the truck blowing up there was a woman on the ground there hurt and we just helped get the kids up to their the red cross building um just keeping everybody safe getting people away from the fire and it and from the vantage point i was at which was up on the upper road looking across the river it looked as though most of the cars had just landed like the riverhead or the bridge had just laid down and the cars had just gone down with it and stayed on it um you know it isn't until i just got home a little while ago they realized that a lot had fallen into the river well that's interesting from your vantage point it almost didn't look like uh like a catastrophic thing it just looked like they maybe just kind of laid down on top of the interstate on top of the water it just looked like the bridge it just said just laid down i mean there was one one car a gray car a gentleman that was kind of up on just like where the bridge had split in the middle kind of balancing up there other than that it just like he had a pancake down into the river and and most of the cars had written down on it from from my vantage point jim when you get to a scene like this and you get to the bus you're likely uh i don't want to put words in your mouth but perhaps expecting the worst what was it like was it chaotic on that bus at the time well you got a lot of kids crying and then you know wanting to get out of there it's just that you you know it all happened so fast you just it wasn't until i started to leave that my knees started knocking um you just do what you got to do and were you there when the but we do know that a group of parents showed up looking for those kids who we believe are about 10 to 11 12 years old uh were you there to see any of those reunions when i no when i but it is when i the

[00:32:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1920s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=1920s)

when i no when i but it is when i the last i saw the kids is they were starting to take some of the kids out to the ambulance that were were down on the floor um and there was a lot of chaos in the red cross building at that point and i decided to get out of there and and make room for the animals crews that were going to be coming in they were just setting up the staging area up at the red cross building jim you have any military training or emergency uh experience i i have quite a bit of emergency experience um paramedic for quite a few years um i worked for one of the one of the branches of the military um a matter of fact while working with the with the water and um i wish i could have gotten down the water to help more still though a remarkable effort on your part and i can't imagine um what that must have been like but there are a lot of folks out there i'm certain tonight thanking you for your efforts well thank you very much this is the second time i've been in i was very heavily involved 9 11. god just put me in a good another place to help people at another time all right jim we appreciate you talking with us tonight thank you thank you carla halt has talked to many people who witnessed this firsthand and she joins us live once again from the scene carla that's right finally it's getting a little bit quieter here at this hour mike and julie after so many hours of people wandering around and sharing their stories recalling what they saw or personally experienced even when this bridge went down now some of the most vivid accounts if you will some of the most horrifying accounts of course involve that bus that bus load of school children who are on their way back from a field trip we did speak to one of the kids on board the bus she was one of the older children the the bus had 60 kids with kids from kindergarten up to eighth grade this was one of the eighth graders her name is jc take a listen it felt scary because first we thought we crashed but then we felt like we felt us going down did you look out the window what did you what were you seeing no i didn't look

[00:34:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2040s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2040s)

what were you seeing no i didn't look out the window all i saw was like i saw dust everywhere and people were screaming and stuff you couldn't really smell extremely horrifying for all of those children now some of the bigger kids if you will did help the younger children who were very scared at that moment obviously looking around them not recognizing what had happened wondering what had happened we later heard from another woman who of course went on board that bus helped those children to evacuate the bus and get to safety and get off that bridge as well i was just speaking with the red cross worker here as well he was telling me about when those kids came to their station and they were treating all the kids he said that they were just traumatized he said that these are kids of a young impressionable age who are experiencing something that most of us hopefully will never experience in our lives and it was just terrifying for them and he said

especially for their parents because there were several minutes of course when a lot of parents didn't know the whereabouts of their children and finally had the reunion that they were looking for mike and julie all right thank you carla and i it's hard to imagine what those families that are at the holiday inn right now are feeling when they can't get in touch with their loved ones uh surely some people will receive happy news because they weren't necessarily on the bridge that's a particularly frustrating aspect of this catastrophe is that it's very hard to know who was on that bridge at that time and so uh rescue crews and in the recovery effort have their their work certainly cut out for them not because the river is such a dangerous place and it's on its own right but also because it's very hard to know how many people they're even looking for we know that cars were bumper to bumper it was rush hour at 605 when the bridge collapsed and cars were only moving 10 to 15 miles an hour but still very hard to know what type of vehicle how many vehicles they're actually searching for and how many people in this river and that search of course will resume again when the sun comes up in the morning in the meantime there was a twins baseball game going on and they decided that they would leave the game as it was they would continue to play because they didn't want those 25 000 fans letting out into the street and

[00:36:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2161s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2161s)

000 fans letting out into the street and uh maybe interfering with the efforts that were underway they were talking a little bit about routing some of the newscasts through on the jumbotron and trying to inform the fans as often as they could and of course for most people you can receive a cell phone call but then the mayor comes out and asks folks not to use their cell phones the game ending tonight they had put out some signage so that they could designate you to the detour plans and light rail had been working so for many of those fans we haven't heard from any who had any difficulty leaving but for all intents and purposes they're kind of trapped in that dome for a while because they're asked not to leave to add any any issue and stress the resources any further so from what we're able to ascertain those folks did finally get out of the dome twins losing tonight and canceling the ball game for tomorrow postponing it as well as the groundbreaking ceremony that was scheduled for tomorrow night hopefully that will help with some of the traffic downtown but obviously this is secondary however worth noting traffic is going to be a nightmare tomorrow in this area now we know metro transit is doing everything they can and they will have people stationed at various park and ride lots if you have never ridden the bus before and so you have some trepidation about how you're going to figure the system out they're going to be there to help you tomorrow because they're really encouraging people to carpool and take buses to cut down on the amount of traffic because obviously it's going to have to be detoured around this major thoroughfare that is completely out of commission adding about 25 buses between 6 and 9 tomorrow morning so as always is the case in traffic situations you're going to want to plan ahead we'll have all the details for you on kare11.com as well right now let's go over to hcmc once again tricia volpe has been working the story from that angle and we've had several updates but they uh seem to be that the last one was issued within the last hour that's right things really haven't changed a whole lot here over the last few hours at hcmc and and you know when it comes to a catastrophe like this with so many people injured so many injuries to varying

[00:38:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2281s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2281s)

injured so many injuries to varying degrees it's really the medical personnel the doctors the nurses the other support staff that are so critical to this they are the ones who are trying to save lives tonight and there are so many people counting on them there are other hospital personnel support staff who are trying to connect families with their injured loved ones all of that is happening inside this building in downtown minneapolis tonight at hcmc and many of the people who were hurt in this disaster in this bridge collapse were brought to hennepin county medical center tonight because this is a level one trauma center it's one of the main trauma centers in the twin cities nearly 30 people from the bridge were brought to hcmc tonight six of them were critically injured we know that four of those patients have undergone surgery tonight both for head injuries as well as abdominal injuries 22 people were less seriously injured many of them have been treated we're not sure at this point who has been released and we know that one of the people who was confirmed dead was pronounced dead here at hennepin county medical center we've certainly seen many family

members and friends walking around the hospital coming in and out some of them are taking a break they're just holding vigil here for for their loved ones i just spoke to a couple of gentlemen who were actually sitting out here on the grass they didn't even know anybody on the bridge they've checked in with all of their family all of their friends none of nobody they know was hurt but they just came out here to pray and they wanted to be here to support the family and friends who who have loved ones who are being treated tonight here at hennepin county medical center certainly going to be a very long night for folks here mike and julie elise thank you trisha on the phone now we have joining us live the deputy deputy director rather of emergency preparedness christy rollwagon thank you for joining us tonight hi mike and julie can you tell me right now is there anything at all going on at the scene in as far as recovery

[00:40:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2400s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2400s)

in as far as recovery at this point we've suspended our river operations for tonight and we're just going to be out there securing the perimeter at this point it's really dangerous with it being dark out as well as the amount of debris that's in the river for us to have any dive teams in the water and so we're pretty sure that we have retrieved all of the victims off of the bridge and the cars that are present above the rubble have all been swept a number of times and we're pretty sure that all of those victims have been transported area hospitals our concentration in the morning is going to be for some structural stability to allow the safe retrieval of what's left in the bottom of the river and that be the cars as well as moving that deep reef so those cars are accessible christy will you have check points down river throughout the evening still being manned yeah what they're what they're nervous about is the debris that might have cut loose and is starting to move down river you know we just don't know the size and volume of debris that's in the river so they're they're making sure and monitoring those down river bridges and making sure that those bridge abutments and are structurally sound christie can you tell us exactly where you are right now and what all the conversations are that we're hearing in the background sure um we're actually i'm calling you from our city's emergency operations center and what we're doing is we're starting to look at our next operational period for tomorrow what the priorities are going to be making sure that we have enough resources and we're actually going to start to cycle some folks out of here so that they are fresh to go at it again in the morning let's talk a little bit about what we can expect to hear if anything in the way of updates overnight or first thing tomorrow morning i don't anticipate there's going to be much changing information tonight in terms of numbers and that kind of stuff you won't hear any any changing numbers of victims unless something happens on the hospital

[00:42:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2521s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2521s)

something happens on the hospital tonight we are done with our river operations for tonight i know that the family assistance center is busy working still doing some reunification as well as information intake as to who might still be missing and attempting to figure out if those people were in the vicinity of that bridge collapse so christy tomorrow would you be asking people in that area is there going to be any concern about cell phone use tomorrow is this something that people don't have to worry about and i assume you still tomorrow do not want people coming down to the scene absolutely the perimeter is going to be secure and we're going to have a lot of large heavy equipment coming in tomorrow via the river via roadways we're talking about large cranes on barges and that kind of stuff because we have to start to pick away at the rubble pile so staying away from that area is just vitally important to allow for that recovery effort to happen out of respect for the people that have perished as well as our emergency workers to keep them as safe as possible in terms of cell phones i don't i don't know if that'll still be an issue tomorrow the biggest problem we were having is is in the initial phases of that emergency the cell lines just get swamped christie what's your evaluation so far of the coordination and the conversations going on between agencies and allowing your people to do their job i think that we are um successfully working as a team here from development partners and partners have been here and then just a tremendous outpouring of offers for resources and we have appreciated every last one of them and at some point in time we'll probably use every last offer that's come our way and what is the plan for tomorrow morning when will the search resume uh what will what will it entail tomorrow morning we're looking at um starting our

[00:44:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2640s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2640s)

morning we're looking at um starting our um our operational period probably around six or seven tomorrow morning and um it's just going to be you know the structural engineers are going to be vitally important to help us determine the safest dismantle that rubble pile and get to the vehicles that are now submerged in the water chris do you have any contact today with homeland security yes we've been in contact with them today um and ironically a number of our federal partners were in town for a homeland security conference today so i'm not sure even they got out of town before we needed them i'm sorry we're just uh having a little bit of technical difficulty there i wasn't able to hear the last remark uh from you but you had said that uh some folks from homeland security were in town for a conference today which was coincidence clearly yes it was clearly a coincidence but um you know we've had constant contact with them through our partners over at state homeland security have facilitated that process for us how would you describe your relationship with the federal authorities um we have an excellent working relationship with our state federal and local partners and tomorrow we know that several federal representatives will be here the secretary of transportation the head of the ntsb uh what kind of help will be looking for from the federal government i think just allowing us to allocate the resources that we need to put closure to this event and look at future mitigation efforts that might need to be taken uh underway to prevent this from ever happening again all right well christy we know you have certainly had a very busy night and we appreciate the updates and understand that there probably won't be many more until this can resume in the morning we wish you the very best of luck thank you christy thank you we'll look forward to talking to you tomorrow appreciate the time all right let's get you caught up on some of the things that have transpired as far as cancellations and changes that may affect your day tomorrow and as we have mentioned just a few minutes ago many

[00:46:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2760s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2760s)

mentioned just a few minutes ago many twins fans were on their way or were at the dome when that bridge collapsed tonight after conferring with public safety officials decided as we mentioned earlier the game would go on officials say that sending upwards of 25 000 people back into traffic would have hindered the rescue efforts however the twins have postponed tomorrow afternoon's game along with the planned groundbreaking ceremony for the new stadium both are going to be rescheduled at a later date and obviously that stretch of road will be closed for quite some time here's the basic detour information that we have right now if you're coming from the west you'll need to take i-94 east if you're coming from the east you can take highway 280 south it is going to be an absolute mess also tonight metro transit announcing it will offer additional bus service from its north metro park and ride locations to downtown minneapolis 25 extra buses going to be pushed into service between six and nine in the morning and then afternoon service also going to be beefed up metro transit says it will monitor the situation over the next several days and it will do what it can it wants to encourage new riders that there will be people stationed at those park and ride lots to help you figure out the bus system and where you need to go so here's the very latest as to what has happened and what we are currently made aware of seven people confirmed dead 60 at minimum injured remember that the search has now become a recovery effort and that will not begin again until daylight tomorrow the collapse happened around six o'clock tonight just a little bit after six on the 35 w bridge right over the mississippi river in minneapolis that bridge gave way sent about 50 cars that were actually left stranded on the bridge that they do believe that they have rescued everyone out of the cars that were stuck on that bridge along with as we've mentioned several times a school bus filled with dozens of children who all appear to be accounted for and okay 18 construction workers resurfacing that road at the time of the collapse one of those workers we're told remains unaccounted for uh

[00:48:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2880s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=2880s)

we're told remains unaccounted for uh tonight and we can also tell you that that road that stretch of road that bridge 35w had been inspected as you've heard throughout the evening several times as recently as last year also in 2005 it apparently passed inspections otherwise it would have been driven on today and no early explanation for just what caused this a lot of people wondering where their loved ones are tonight and

worried about friends and family we can tell you that we have information on our website kare11.com and we encourage you to go there not only will we have phone numbers that you can call for red cross to try to track down information on family members or find out how you can donate but also we'll have a website linked to the city of minneapolis and they're going to have suggestions for routes you can take tomorrow to avoid this part of the city but still get where you need to go a lot of information to digest then we certainly know that many of you are coming and going from being in front of the television set so we do urge you to use the website at kare11.com and we're going to stay with the story and situation throughout the evening and let you know of any updates as they become available but you did hear hcmc not planning any update uh the mayor the governor police chief fire chief all saying barring any unforeseen circumstance they're like not likely to comment publicly for the rest of the night of course when the sun comes up tomorrow it is going to be a very busy day we have uh senators coleman and klobuchar both flying in from washington along with the secretary of transportation mary peters and also flying in from florida the chairman of the ntsb which of course is the national transportation safety board and uh as you've heard before even nancy pelosi saying tonight that the federal government will do whatever it needs to do and whatever it can to help allocate the resources and get to the bottom of why this happens homeland security coming out strong tonight and early trying to calm and perhaps allay some fears that terrorism may in fact have been an issue here but they are saying right now no indication that that is in fact the case and this does conclude

[00:50:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3001s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3001s)

in fact the case and this does conclude kare 11 news at 10 o'clock a special edition we will however have more special coverage in a moment but first we're going to take a moment to reflect on this evening's events [Music] do [Music] it's hard to believe and hard to watch those pictures we know this the governor said earlier tonight will certainly be a catastrophe that historic proportions in minnesota's history and it is still unbelievable to see those pictures and more unbelievable still for the people who were right there when this happened yeah it's going to be a lot of information coming out the next couple of hours we're going to stay with the story right now in fact i want to give you another look as close to the scene perhaps as we're able to get at least for the foreseeable future and our joe fryer once again near the center of some activity joe good evening once again yeah mike and julie this is about as close as anyone's getting tonight the roadblocks are up to try and keep people people who are leaving the twins game and even the media away we're certainly a few blocks away from the scene of where this happened we were much closer earlier tonight my photographer and i were working on a story at hennepin county medical center we were outside there when this collapse happened about five minutes after six o'clock we heard one

[00:52:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3121s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3121s)

minutes after six o'clock we heard one siren and then another and before you knew it sirens filled the sound of downtown minneapolis we arrived on the scene a few minutes later and were able to get fairly close at that time you could see that the bridge had collapsed you could see black smoke rising from the scene you could even see at one point a police officer actually carrying a woman in his arms that woman was in a neck brace and he put her in an ambulance and rushed her away there was a lot to see we know dozens of cars were on the bridge at the time this happened we know 18 construction workers were also working resurfacing the bridge the time this happened and one of those construction workers is unaccounted for tonight but what's amazing when you consider how many cars are on there how many people survived and tonight we heard some of their stories it was the heart of rush hour bumper to bumper traffic on the 35w bridge but it just completely gave out the bridge that started shaking and then it was a complete free fall gary babineau figures he fell 30 to 50 feet and he was lucky i saw a tanker completely nose dot nose dive into the water and it there was only about five feet of the back end showing we saw that the left side was going into the river so myself and the german behind me went to the right and i hit on the brakes it's a story that repeated itself over and over it just started kind of like crunching down and um i don't know we didn't know what was going on my eyes were closed i opened them i saw cement blocks in the front of the car and then all of a sudden we were stopped and our cars perpendicular to the ground amazingly after the collapse people risked their own

lives to free those trapped in their cars and get them off the bridge what's also amazing is that many of the people we spoke with had minor injuries or really no injuries at all maybe some minor aches and pains that i'm sure they're certainly going to

[00:54:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3240s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3240s)

that i'm sure they're certainly going to feel in the morning and a lot of them credit the fact that they were wearing their seat belts we so often think of seat belts in accidents where you get hit or some sort of sideways collision rarely do you ever think of a free-fall type situation like this but the one guy we spoke with mr babineau says that wearing his seat belt no doubt saved his life he may have hit his head a little bit but beyond that he said he was able to unhook the seat belt and get out and that's why he feels he's alive today back to you guys joe thanks very much we'll touch base with you likely in another couple of minutes really appreciate the additional time and uh greg vandergrift has been at that scene too a little disturbing from his vantage point because as you saw earlier probably in our coverage there was a a train and one of the compartments or the the boxcars has been punctured and there's something pouring out of it any new word on that greg uh julie i i tried to learn about that and and couldn't get any good concrete information as i look over my shoulder now um i i mean it's dark but uh it it appears to me that something is still falling from there but uh that's it's it's late and and my eyes are old but uh anyway uh earlier tonight people obviously gathered here uh hundreds were here um in the seven to eight o'clock hour they they were all here and and all equally stunned uh about what they were looking at uh and those who saw it happen or felt it happen uh in the area and then went to help they still can't believe it we saw a gloom of smoke sand colored shoot out from the south end of the bridge rescue crews from all over the metro rushed to the unimaginable 35-w over the mississippi river down after collapsing in rush hour in sections from south to north and about three major pieces fell down joe costello saw it from a bridge upriver we were all praying it

[00:56:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3360s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3360s)

bridge upriver we were all praying it was not 35w i was in shock i could not i didn't really have anything we were like silent when we were walking over like we didn't say a thing jared powers and joe hughes felt the quake even though in an apartment building a couple blocks away you know we saw the bridge collapsed cars in the water people on the bridge you know people people in the paramedics helping people you know swim out of the out of the river and we went down and basically you know as they were pulling them out of the cars we'd help them load them onto stretchers and then carry them to the ambulance their instinct help he's swimming him in the shore and he had just his whole face was all bloody and we were talking to him like not talking to him but the firefighters were pulling under the ambulance and he had like his broken jaw and everything and he was extremely bloody a scene simply beyond words my first reaction was there's no way so it's just shock it still hasn't hit me now i can tell you between 10 30 and 11 15 this evening a new group formed out here just just to stand here and stare and to look at at that unbelievable and unimaginable image of a bridge that size collapsed huge i-beams bent now as for uh the area tonight there are police here they have set up a perimeter they have had to chase some people off who have tried to get uh closer and take a look mike and julie well it's certainly understandable why people want to get closer and take a look and especially for people who don't know if their loved ones were on that bridge at the time that it collapsed vandy you've been reporting for a long time any personal thoughts tonight on what you've seen in your reaction um honestly my first reaction was concern about my family i knew they were going to be out and about and there there was some real panic that went through me for about 10 or 15 minutes once i had located my family then i got down to the the job at hand and and i've

[00:58:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3481s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3481s)

to the the job at hand and and i've never seen anything like this not not in person it is uh we we have stood here this evening looking at that bridge albeit a small portion the north portion and we just shake our heads it is there there are not words to describe this uh you you don't expect something like this to happen and and yet there it is and vandy i know how many uh reporters and those of us who have done stories that required

us to cross the bridge or even stand on the bridge and do a live shot near the bridge about rush hour traffic and that type of thing and it really strikes me tonight how your first thought of course was to your family and so many people feeling the same thing we're sure there were a lot of happy reunions tonight and a lot of uh of really blissful people when that loved one picked up the other end of the cell phone call we appreciate all of your input tonight too greg thank you so much and when you find out what that is spilling out of that box car i'm sure that you will let us know i'll keep asking all right thank you greg and it is worth noting that seconds did make a difference tonight and one lucky group of kids happened to be on a bus that was just short of where the bridge completely broke off and collapsed now calling them lucky tonight scott might be a stretch because i'm sure that they don't feel particularly lucky in a lot of ways because there were some injuries on that bus and certainly a bit of emotional trauma at uh at the scene that they lived through tonight but scott that's maybe one of the silver linings we're clinging to tonight is that they all appear to be okay absolutely julie this certainly was traumatic for anyone on that school bus and it was traumatic for everyone who saw the pictures of a school bus trapped on that bridge everybody feared the worst that bridge collapsed in the height of rush hour when we knew it was bumper to bumper and then when we saw the the pictures

[01:00:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3600s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3600s)

pictures of that school bus and soon learned that 62 people were on the bus 52 of them children it didn't seem like it would end this way but no fatalities on that bus there are some injuries eight children two staffers from a youth program at the weight house in south minneapolis but none of the injuries considered to be life-threatening the kids and the staffers were coming back to minneapolis after spending the day at a water park in [___] rapids could you please back up and clear the block please parents rushed toward the river knowing their kids were on the school bus that was trapped against the guard rail some had seen the images on tv who are you looking for for my my daughter my son jasmine and jonathan in all there were more than 50 kids between the ages of 7 and 15 they belonged to a summer youth program they were coming home from a field trip we're on our way back from the swimming field trip and we were riding over the bridge and the bridge collapsed and we were right on the part where it went down it curved down ryan watkins said two girls were hurt i know a little girl had she was bleeding i don't i didn't see what happened but she was bleeding in between her legs and i look another girl had hurt her neck the bus was on a part of the bridge that landed on the river bank if we would have been any second later any second before we would have been in the water or under the pavement because the pavement crushed another car that was in front of us jeremy hernandez is a staffer who eventually helped reunite the children with their parents i'm just glad to be alive glad all the kids are safe and their parents came to come get them and that's that's it and tonight staffers have been able to reunite all of the children with their parents either at home or at the hospital eight children injured two staffers injured as well but everybody is expected to survive mike julie that's certainly relieving news to hear thank you scott i appreciate that update once again a lot of people obviously are going to have stories to share people who witness

[01:02:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3720s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3720s)

have stories to share people who witness this people who just want to leave their thoughts and and concerns people who want to maybe get a message out to someone that they have not been able to contact yet go to care11.com and if you click on community you'll see a message board there and we're inviting you to leave your thoughts your feelings questions you might have some people i noticed we've got a few of them in front of me questioning why this bridge was not inspected well in fact it was just inspected in 2006 and also in 2005 and there appeared to be no problems with the bridge so feel free to go to that site to read what other people are saying and to leave your own thoughts as well tonight and kare11.com is a great place to go for updated information throughout this whole ordeal of course tomorrow morning when the sun comes up do tune in to our sunrise show because they will be having this whole story covered then as well you know inspection certainly a key uh component to all of this but just something to keep in mind folks if you hadn't heard this before this bridge was built in 1967 and the people working on it today were there to just do some surface work the way they describe it maybe do some uh some stuff on the top of the road there nothing that

would affect the structural integrity according to the way they're telling us tonight so it had passed its inspections if you had mentioned it is not a new bridge and it's just too early and certainly not responsible for us to speculate as to what may have caused this we can tell you there were thousands of people who were able to witness what had happened or had gotten to that scene shortly thereafter and our reporter jeff demars was able to speak with some of them and here's what he captured on tape this evening but you know i never thought it would crumble and collapse but i knew it was kind of old but i never know that they said i also look kind of old you know but i never really thought it you know anything all but you know you never hear anything like that bridge collapsing my uh my dad called me yeah we were on the on the train coming down to the game and my dad called me to see if we were driving and made sure we're okay and yeah we said it was fine right yeah we're good to go but then you decided to

01:04:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3840s>)

then you decided to check it out yeah yeah and and people heard me talking about it and it just rippled through the train and so half the people got off came towards the river it seems like half the towns heard about it not only got everybody that was headed to the games yeah yeah it's uh that's something else i'm telling you when you see it what are you seeing or what do you what goes through your mind well uh how many times i've crossed that bridge and how i i don't i haven't heard any of the statistics i've been on the traveling since it started so but i'm imagining there's some people that are hurt and killed that's um it's ugly um yeah i've already gotten three calls from people that we knew we were coming this way to make sure that we weren't on the bridge the little guys were there yeah yeah these are my boys so this day and age you know post 911 anything else go through your mind well yeah that was the first thing i thought of yeah was the the 911 thing um what what were you thinking something big something hit big again and you know i don't think i knew this couldn't i don't think this could have been anything had to do with the terrorists but it's still kind of uh it's it's really something and she just told my fiance the bridge i'm on is collapsing i've got to go and uh we haven't heard anything since that yet so i don't really know what's going on um it's just bad and there's a group of kids that were pulled off and they were crying when we came down they were just getting pulled out and it just doesn't seem i mean it's a horrible situation and you want to stay out of the cop's way and let them do their job but at the same point in time you want to find out is the person that i care about all right i mean if they heard or they i'd be happy just to know she's hurt right now because that way i know she's alive and

01:06:00 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=3960s>)

because that way i know she's alive and they know where she's at well a lot of people very shaken up obviously and we do want to reiterate after you heard that gentleman say you wouldn't think it was terrorism they certainly officials are saying tonight they believe that it was a structure collapse and they're fairly adamant about that but of course they are going to investigate and there will be several high-level people here from the federal government tomorrow to investigate that and as we were hearing earlier there will be lots of large equipment and they'll be trying to move some of that debris and figure out if anyone still is trapped underneath that structure tomorrow morning all those voids apparently is what they're going to be checking out where some of that debris is compiled upon itself and seven dead right now a minimum of 60 injured carla holt has been following the story from the red cross it's a triage center or a headquarters for lack of a better phrase for much of the evening and joins us now with the latest from there carla yeah that's right of course the red cross has been obviously trying to support all the emergency workers as they've been continuing to do what is now a recovery effort they've been trying to make sure that they have enough food and enough water to really keep working through the night and of course there was a call at one point to any downtown restaurant who could go ahead and make a donation to those emergency workers make sure that they can continue to do their work this point i just saw one of jimmy john's downtown minneapolis bringing up just a ton of sandwiches to those workers so obviously a lot of people answering the call for help a lot of people doing that immediately after this bridge fell as well in fact we did hear from several people who saw people rushing to the aid to the assistance of people who were experiencing this firsthand and in fact we talked to a lot of people who were on the bridge itself when it happened when it went down and here's what

they had to say i was on the bridge the bridge just completely went down and it was about a 30 to 50 foot free fall and my truck was completely split in half i cannot belie i'm so thankful i was wearing my seatbelt i hit my that's all i did was hit my steering wheel my back is really really hurting because

[01:08:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4081s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4081s)

is really really hurting because of when we actually hit the ground there was a a car on the on the actual edge where the actual where the actual bridge broke down and there was a guy in the car and we were trying to get back but a police officer said no don't go back but they got him saved off of the bridge within a few minutes we were just boom boom boom i mean we felt this horrible and we were falling literally falling i don't think i've explained that but when you're when i'm saying these booms you were falling at the same time like i don't know we're guessing 40 feet we don't know it could have been more that and then all of a sudden we were stopped and our car was at this awful angle you know just smashed in and we were on top of a smaller car so so many people struggling to describe their personal experiences we've obviously heard from a couple of those people before and you just can't hear enough from them in terms of what they experienced themselves and then with their families in some cases and trying to help people who they saw going through this now that last woman who we heard from said and this is kind of indicative of how people are doing out here that she took down the names of the people who came to her aid because she wanted to be sure to follow up with them afterwards she wants to write them notes even call them talk to them personally to say listen i'm out of that crisis now we are safe but i still want you to know that you made a difference to me when i was experiencing that on that day so it's pretty pretty amazing work out here in terms of all the emergency personnel also the of course the red cross but even the people who have come to the aid of others mike and julie i'm sure we'll be hearing many many more stories like those in the coming days thank you carla just as good a time as any though to just remind folks about those numbers and the websites that we've just been giving you all evening long you're going to be on our website you've a central hub for all of that it's kare11.com it'll be there and updated throughout the evening or as needed well earlier in the evening our executive producer talked on the phone with a woman who was coming home from duluth and she was coming southbound on 35 and at the last moment decided to pull

[01:10:01 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4201s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4201s)

and at the last moment decided to pull off and take that last exit before the bridge this is her recount of what happened tell me what was happening this afternoon you were on the freeway i was my daughter and i were coming back from duluth we spent the day up there and i was trying to get into town before the traffic got too bad but that didn't work out um the vikings game was probably adding to it and the road construction so we decided well i decided actually to turn off there because it was slow going even to get up to that exit for university but i decided to take that which way were you going i was coming into minneapolis from duluth gotcha and there was a gas station there on the corner of 10th and i needed to use that so i was going to go there but i couldn't turn left or yeah it would have been left to get into the gas station either because other people had the same idea so i went across the 10th street bridge and i heard i i don't really know the order of things but i know what what i heard and what i saw something pancaked p it pancaked down something just was a big a big crash and i'm assuming from the news reports i'm seeing that it was um if that were falling on the railroad cars that might have been why it was an odd sounding crash and then i looked and i i started to scream because the bridge was going down into a v on the section it was eye level with me and the cars were just going like they were tiny little hot wheels or something they were just they were just falling and then there was this horrible like smoke or i don't believe it was really smoke but that's what i thought at first and it was concrete dust and then there was just noises i don't even know how to describe and i was screaming and my daughter and i were

[01:12:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4320s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4320s)

was screaming and my daughter and i were both trying to use our cell phones to get 9-1-1 and get help and then i stopped two young men who looked fit and told them what happened and tell them get down there see what you can do and i don't think they believed me and the traffic was moving so i had to keep going and then there was a bicycling team that i saw and they did believe it because by then we're both sobbing and screaming and they turned their bikes around and went back you know towards the bridge collapse and i i remember seeing the orange bus and i i knew there were kids on that bus and you know we were just praying about about them and their safety and everybody's why do you think it was that you you mean you were on that you were you were just about to go on that bridge i needed to use the bathroom and i have never been so glad to be this age and never been so glad that i drank all that coffee in duluth because i didn't stop all the way back oh my but i really could not get into that gas station because the traffic was just too much so my option was to just tough it out and go on the slower bridge um to make it home did you um uh and so when you what was the first site you saw that you realized that there was a that there was trouble when the bridge went into that v and all the cars started just tumbling and sliding i i was screaming and i remember hearing horns honking i don't know if they were behind me or if they were from i can't believe that i would have heard them from the other bridge but i heard horns honking and that's that crash sound first the sight of the cars going down in that v shape and going into the water and then horn talking that's just my clearest memories well that is just one more story from an eyewitness but certainly across the area tonight there are people who declined to run an errand that they were maybe going to run people who

[01:14:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4440s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4440s)

were maybe going to run people who changed plans and didn't end up going over that bridge at a time when they normally would or were on vacation and and as we said earlier in the night just really seconds and minutes made a difference tonight uh conceivably between life and death and one of the if there is anything fortunate in something so terrible is this it's location for a lot of these folks who had been injured because hcmc perhaps one of the top trauma centers in the country is located just a few moments uh from that 35w bridge and tricia volpe's been there all evening talking with the surgeons and the doctors and getting updates on the conditions and things and you would talk to us even at the beginning of the evening talking about just how pragmatic people were in the way they handled all of this and moving methodically from patient to patient indeed and you know mike and julie i think we can all relate to this when we get hurt we rely on the expertise of doctors nurses and other medical professionals to take care of us well there are many families tonight relying on these medical professionals to save the lives of their loved ones but this is what they are trained to do here we talked about how methodical and how how very professional they were earlier all of the medical professionals taking care of the patients as they came in on the stretchers ambulance after ambulance again this is what they're trained to do hennepin county medical center is a level one trauma center we mentioned they considered this a disaster situation the kind of situation these professionals train for they have regular drills they run through this scenario of mass injuries time and time again it's a drill designed for a real life situation like what we saw here tonight we have a very well developed disaster response team which we have drills on periodically through the year but basically we set up a tree eye center and then we sort we have a physician and nurse team at that center we call in we call in personnel from the hospital of all types people to transport patients nurses doctors uh administrative people to help with the logistics

[01:16:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4560s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4560s)

to help with the logistics security to help with with uh security type issues and locking down the perimeter and then we sort patients into those who are critically ill those who are not critically ill but ill and have injuries requiring intervention urgently and those who are what we call the walking wounded those with minor injuries well they told us they were going to bring up the ambulance bring it over here so they were on a school box yeah going home i was coming through minneapolis yeah you of course heard first from the doctor who was very methodical about how this process works of bringing trauma patients into the hospital and treating them as we said very methodical very organized and then of course the raw emotion of the gentleman after the doctor he was talking about his niece and nephew who were on that bus we've heard about so much tonight

both his niece and nephew brought to hcmc but he tells us that they are both going to be fine now here at hcmc today throughout the night nearly 30 people have been brought here mike and julie six critically injured we know tonight that four of the critically injured have gone uh through surgery thanks for getting us up to speed chris thanks very much trisha bulman hcmc once again tonight and we're going to check in one final time with joe fryer who has been on the scene since about 6 30 this evening joe first i'd like you to share some of your thoughts about the night you know it certainly has been an interesting night it's sometimes hard to believe if six hours if it seems like it was more like 16 hours ago or if it just happened a few minutes ago the adrenaline the adrenaline rush you know just keeps you going keeps you going and sometimes you don't really get a chance to stop and digest it but we're having a chance to do that more and realize just what a horrible thing it is that happened here tonight you know throughout the evening i've been getting text messages from friends who live in the area wanting to make sure i'm okay and stay safe and from people who are outside of the state who just want to make sure that we're okay and not sure if we're near the scene or anything like that and i've had a chance

[01:18:00 \(https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4680s\)](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9yyr6Q6Kryw&t=4680s)

anything like that and i've had a chance to look in one message i just got from someone says i was on my way to [__] rapids and right after i passed university on 35w the bridge collapsed the ground shook like it was an earthquake so that's just one person who i know who was probably maybe possibly just seconds or minutes away from actually being on the bridge at the time it happened and even for us reporters that really hits home but more than anything what hits home are the images of the people who we saw who witnessed this and certainly hearing the stories from the people who were actually on the bridge and described that free fall and what it was like and the many people who came to their aid to help them risk their own lives to get them off of that bridge so nothing else happened joe we sure appreciate all of your updates tonight and of course we'll be uh continuing to follow this throughout the night thank you joe well that will conclude our coverage of today's tragic bridge collapse in minneapolis we do hope you'll stay with kare11 and kare11.com for all the latest developments we want the families to know that our thoughts are with them tonight kim and tim will resume our coverage at 5 a.m on kare 11 news first edition and sunrise and of course if there are any major developments before then we will cut into programming for all of us at kare 11 news have a safe night [Music] [Applause] [Music] so [Music] you

END